

Serial No.: 09/148,815

Attorney Docket No: MCS-011-98

REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 9, 2003, was a final rejection of claims 2-23 of the above-referenced patent application. However, the Applicants believe that the application is in condition for allowance because the claims are novel and nonobvious over the cited art. Thus, the Applicants respectfully request further examination and reconsideration of the subject application. The reasons for this belief in the novelty and nonobviousness of the rejected claims are presented below.

Section 102(e) Rejections

The final Office Action rejected claims 2-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Redford et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,957,695). The Office Action stated that Redford et al. discloses each and every element of the Applicants' claimed invention.

The Applicants respectfully disagree with this contention. In general, the Applicants submit that Redford et al. lack at least one feature of the Applicants' claimed invention. In particular, for independent claim 2, Redford et al. do not disclose, either explicitly or implicitly, the material claimed feature of at least one adjustable interface option including a single slider control that is slidably movable along a reference datum. For independent claim 7, Redford et al. do not disclose, either explicitly or implicitly, the material claimed feature of using dual slider controls displayed on the client display monitor having multiple boundaries for adjusting associated data values within a range. For independent claim 19, Redford et al. do not disclose, either explicitly or implicitly, the material claimed feature of adjusting pricing data using a slider filter that is dynamically coupled to an input box so that both the slider filter and the input box dynamically change as a user configures the slider filter, the input box, or both.

Independent Claim 2

Independent claim 2 of the Applicants' claimed invention includes a display device having rendered thereon dynamically changing results of a database query. The display device further includes a query grid having at least one field and associated data. The query grid is stored on a server as raw data, and the query grid is transmitted from the

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server to a remote client through a communications interface in response to a communication from the client to the server. The display device also includes at least one adjustable interface option including a single slider control that is slidably moveable along a reference datum and is displayed on the client display device for adjusting associated data of the at least one associated field in real time using the remote client to process the adjustment.

Slider controls are shown in the Applicants' specification in FIG. 6 (reference number 620) and FIG. 7 (reference number 720). These sliders controls are slidably movable along a reference datum and allow a user to "drag the lever of the slider filter control in either direction to narrow certain criteria of the results for each sorted field or category" (specification, page 16, lines 12-15).

In contrast, Redford et al., merely disclose input boxes, drop-down list boxes, and authoring buttons (FIGS. 9C-E; col. 45, lines 4-12; col. 48, lines 35-40). However, the Applicants' claimed single slider control that is slidably movable along a reference datum is not disclosed by Redford et al..

In response to the Applicants' previous arguments presented regarding claim 2, the Examiner responded that Redford et al. disclose a slider control in FIG. 9C in the form of the little gray box of the slider of the drop down list box (930A). The Examiner stated that the gray box is clearly slidable by dragging the box upward or downward along the reference datum, such as, for example, the files or data items entitled "cover.txt", "page1.txt", "page2.txt".

In rebuttal to the Examiner's arguments, the Applicants point out that there are differences between the slider control claimed by the Applicants and drop-down menus or boxes (such as those disclosed by Redford et al. and shown in the Applicants' specification). Specifically, as shown in FIG. 7 of the Applicants' specification, the drop-down menus 740 are similar to the input boxes 730 except that the drop-down menus 740 contain downward-pointing triangle. When a user clicks on this triangle, the list of other.

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entries is displayed in a drop-down vertical arrangement. On the other hand, as also shown in FIG. 7 of the Applicants' specification, the slider controls 720 do not contain any type of drop-down list. Clicking on the slider control will not yield a drop-down menu or list. In fact, the action of the slider control is to be dragged in either direction to "narrow certain criteria of the results" (specification, page 16, lines 13-15). Thus, the slider control 720 and the drop-down menu 740 are different.

Similarly, FIG. 9C of Redford et al. merely describes drop-down menus. In particular, "... 930A are drop down list boxes which contain the lists of graphics files, sound files, and text files, respectively" (col. 45, lines 10-12). As shown in FIG. 9C of Redford et al., when a user clicks on the downwardly-pointing triangle having a line underneath the drop-down list shown under the "Text file" heading appears. This drop-down list allows the user to scroll down and select one of the entries. As the user scrolls down the drop-down list, the entry which the mouse pointer is on is highlighted. This highlighting is shown by the gray box highlighting the entry "page5.txt". "For example, in drop down list box 930A, to select text file 'page5.txt' the author double clicks on entry 930A1" (col. 45, lines 16-20). Thus, Redford et al. merely disclose drop-down menus, such as described and shown by in Applicants' specification. However, nowhere do Redford et al. show the Applicants' claimed slider control.

The Applicants, therefore, respectfully traverse this rejection of independent claim 2 because Redford et al. do not disclose, either explicitly or implicitly, the material claimed feature of at least one adjustable interface option including a single slider control that is slidably movable along a reference datum. Because of this missing feature, the §102 rejection cannot stand.

Independent Claim 7

Independent claim 7 includes a method for dynamically adjusting associated data values on a client computer. The method includes transmitting a plurality of data packets comprising associated data values from a host computer to a remote client computer in response to an initial query by the client computer, where the associated

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data values are a subset of available data on the host computer relating to the initial query. The method further includes automatically displaying a control module on a display monitor of the client computer. The method also includes using dual slider controls displayed on the client display monitor to dynamically adjusting the associated data values using the remote client to process the adjustment in response to user interaction with the automatically displayed control module. The dual slider controls have multiple boundaries for adjusting the associated data values within a range. The method also includes dynamically displaying the adjusted data values on the client display monitor.

Dual slider controls are shown in the Applicants' specification in FIG. 7 (reference number 720). These dual sliders "have multiple boundaries for constraining the results within a defined range" (specification, page 16, lines 16-18). Moreover, the dual sliders are shown in FIG. 6 of the Applicants' specification (reference number 620).

In contrast, Redford et al., do not disclose the Applicants' claimed feature of using dual slider controls displayed on the client display monitor, where the dual slider controls have multiple boundaries for adjusting associated data values within a range. In fact, as discussed above, Redford et al. merely disclose input boxes, drop-down list boxes, and authoring buttons (FIGS. 9C-E; col. 45, lines 4-12; col. 48, lines 35-40). Nowhere do Redford et al. disclose or illustrate the Applicants' claimed dual slider controls.

In response to the Applicants' previous arguments presented regarding claim 7, the Examiner responded that Redford et al. disclose at least one dual slider control, such as the scrolling up and scrolling down triangles of the slider of the drop-down box 930A in FIG. 9C. The Examiner believes that the triangles can "apparently be clicked by the client to adjust the associated data values having multiple boundaries [e.g. the cover.txt, page1.txt, page2.txt, etc., Fig. 9C] within a range [e.g., the page5.txt range, Fig. 9C]."

In rebuttal to the Examiner's arguments, the Applicants point out the following differences between the Applicants' claimed dual slider controls and the interface options

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shown disclosed in Redford et al.. First, as argued above, the drop-down menus and scroll bars of Redford et al. are different from the Applicant's claimed slider control. The claimed slider control does not have an associated drop-down list. Second, the dual slider controls are used to adjust and change the upper and lower boundaries of their associated input boxes. More specifically, as shown in FIG. 7 of the Applicants' specification, the "Price Range" input boxes 730 have shown a lower boundary of \$100,000 and an upper boundary of \$685,000. The dual slider controls 720 associated with these "Price Range" input boxes 730 are used to adjust or change these boundaries. For example, a user can slide the left-hand slider to the left to decrease the lower boundary shown in the input box 730, such as from \$100,000 to \$75,000. Similarly, a user can slide the right-hand slider to the right to increase the upper boundary displayed in the input box 730, such as from \$685,000 to \$600,000. Thus, the dual slider controls 720 have multiple boundaries for adjusting boundaries of the data. The scroll bars and drop-down menus of Redford et al. simply lack this feature. In particular, the scroll bars in Redford et al. merely scroll down a list and the gray box on the drop-down menu 930A shown in FIG. 9C of Redford et al. merely highlights a desired entry. As explained above, double clicking this entry places it in the drop-down list box.

The Applicants, therefore, respectfully traverse this rejection of independent claim 7 because Redford et al. do not disclose, either explicitly or implicitly, the material claimed feature of using dual slider controls displayed on the client display monitor having multiple boundaries for adjusting associated data values within a range. Because of this missing feature, the §102 rejection cannot stand.

Independent Claim 19

Independent claim 19 includes a method for dynamically adjusting pricing data displayed on a client computer. The method includes transmitting a set of pricing data from a server computer to the client computer in response to an initial query from the client computer, where the pricing data relates to the initial query and is a portion of available data on the server computer. The method also includes transmitting a control module comprising a graphical user interface from the server computer to the client

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computer and automatically displaying the graphical user interface on the client computer. The method further includes adjusting the pricing data using a slider filter contained in the graphical user interface, the slider filter being dynamically coupled to an input box so that both the slider filter and the input box dynamically change as a user configures either the slider filter, the input box, or both. The method also includes dynamically displaying the adjusted pricing data using the remote client to process the adjustment in response to user interaction with the automatically displayed graphical user interface.

FIG. 7 of the Applicants' specification illustrates "input boxes 730 that can be digitally coupled to the slider filters 720 so that both the slider filters 720 and the input boxes 730 dynamically change as the user configures the other interface. As a result, the user can interact with either interface option" (specification, page 17, lines 1-4). In other words, using the example given above and shown in FIG. 7, as a user slides the left-hand slider of the dual slider control 720 the lower boundary input box 730 in the "Price range" containing the value "\$100,000" also changes. Similarly, the upper boundary text box 730 in the "Price range" is changed as the user slides the right-hand slider of the dual slider control 720. These changes occur because each slider of the dual slider controls 720 is coupled to a respective one of the input boxes 730.

In contrast, Redford et al., do not disclose the Applicants' claimed feature of adjusting pricing data using a slider filter that is dynamically coupled to an input box so that both the slider filter and the input box dynamically change as a user configures the slider filter, the input box, or both. In fact, as discussed above, Redford et al. merely disclose input boxes, drop-down list boxes, and authoring buttons (FIGS. 9C-E; col. 45, lines 4-12; col. 48, lines 35-40). Nowhere do Redford et al. disclose or illustrate the Applicants' claimed feature of using a slider filter that is dynamically coupled to an input box.

In response to the Applicants' previous arguments presented regarding claim 19, the Examiner responded that Redford et al. disclose an input box (931A of FIG. 9C) that is dynamically coupled to the slider (930A1 of FIG. 9C). The Examiner stated that when the

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client uses the slider control to adjust the contents of the drop-down list box (930A of FIG. 9C) and selects one of the listed items (such as "page5.txt") by double clicking the item, the contents of the editable input box (931A) are updated.

In rebuttal to the Examiner's arguments, the Applicants point out the following difference: when the any one of the Applicants' claimed dual slider controls 720 are moved the value in the respective text box 730 changes as the slider moves. In contrast, in Redford et al. the user must double click the data item in order to have the item display in the text box. Moreover, as explained above, Redford et al. lack slider controls.

The Applicants, therefore, respectfully traverse this rejection of independent claim 19 because Redford et al. do not disclose, either explicitly or implicitly, the material claimed feature of adjusting pricing data using a slider filter that is dynamically coupled to an input box so that both the slider filter and the input box dynamically change as a user configures the slider filter, the input box, or both. Because of this missing feature, the §102 rejection cannot stand.

Because the Applicants' claimed invention includes features neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Redford et al., the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of independent claims 2, 7 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Redford et al. has been overcome based on the arguments set forth above. Moreover, rejected claims 3-6 depend from independent claim 2, rejected claims 8-18 depend from independent claim 7, and rejected claims 20-23 depend from independent claim 19 and therefore also are novel over Redford et al. (MPEP § 2143.03). The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request reexamination, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 2-23 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Redford et al. based on the arguments above.

Conclusion

In view of the arguments set forth above, the Applicants submit that claims 2-23 of the subject application are in immediate condition for allowance. The Examiner,

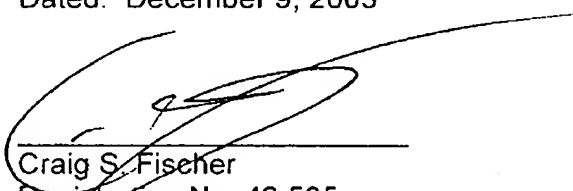
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therefore, is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejections of the claims and to pass all of the claims of this application to issue.

In an effort to expedite and further the prosecution of the subject application, the Applicants kindly invite the Examiner to telephone the Applicants' attorney at (805) 278-8855 if the Examiner has any comments, questions or concerns, wishes to discuss any aspect of the prosecution of this application, or desires any degree of clarification of this response.

Respectfully submitted,
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